Amendment to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A photothermographic material comprising an image forming layer containing at least a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder on the same surface of a support, wherein the photothermographic material contains:

a compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group,

wherein the compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group is represented by the following formula (I):

A-(W)n-B formula (I)

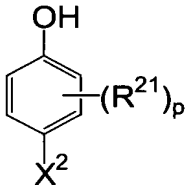
wherein, in the formula, A represents an atomic group containing a group capable of adsorbing to silver halide, W represents a divalent linking group, n represents 0 or 1, and B represents a reducing group,

wherein the adsorption group is a heterocyclic group substituted by one or two mercapto groups, a heterocyclic ring containing at least one atom selected from a nitrogen atom, a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a –NH- group capable to form an imino-silver (>NAg) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring, or a heterocyclic ring having quarternalized nitrogen atom,

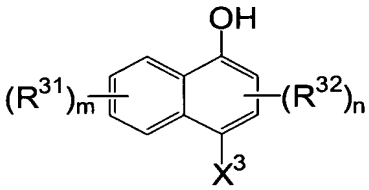
and the reducing group is one selected from ~~hydroxylamines, hydroxamic acids,~~ hydroxyureas, ~~hydroxysemicarbazides, hydrazines, hydrazides~~ and ~~phenidones~~ 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidones;

and a development accelerator, wherein the development accelerator is at least one selected from compound groups represented by the following formulae (1), (2) and (3):

Formula (1)



Formula (2)



Formula (3)

wherein:

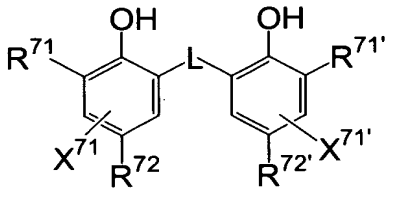
in formula (1), Q^1 represents a 5 to 7 membered unsaturated ring capable of bonding to NHNH-R^1 through a carbon atom; R^1 represents a carbamoyl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group; and

in formulae (2) and (3), X^2 and X^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; R^{21}, R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent capable of substitution; m and p each independently represent an integer from 0 to 4; and n represents an integer from 0 to 2.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the reducing agent is represented by the following formula (7):



Formula (7)

wherein, in formula (7), R^{71} and $R^{71'}$ each independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms; R^{72} and $R^{72'}$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring; X^{71} and $X^{71'}$ each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a group capable of substituting for a hydrogen atom on a benzene ring; L represents a -S- group or $-CHR^{73}-$ group; and R^{73} represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

5. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein a silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 5% by mole or more.

6. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 5, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 40% by mole or more.

7. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the photothermographic material is exposed to a laser beam.

8. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 7, wherein the laser beam has a wavelength of 350 nm to 450 nm.

9. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 7, wherein a light source of the laser beam is a blue laser diode.

10. (currently amended) A photothermographic material comprising, on a support, at least a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a

reducing agent and a binder, wherein:

1) the photothermographic material contains a compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group,

wherein the compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group is represented by the following formula (I):

A-(W)n-B formula (I)

wherein, in the formula, A represents an atomic group containing a group capable of adsorbing to silver halide, W represents a divalent linking group, n represents 0 or 1, and B represents a reducing group,

wherein the adsorption group is a heterocyclic group substituted by one or two mercapto groups, a heterocyclic ring containing at least one atom selected from a nitrogen atom, a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a –NH- group capable to form an imino-silver (>NAg) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring, or a heterocyclic ring having quarternalized nitrogen atom,

and the reducing group is one selected from ~~hydroxylamines, hydroxamic acids,~~ hydroxyureas, ~~hydroxysemicarbazides, hydrazines, hydrazides~~ and ~~phenidones~~ 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidones;

2) the non-photosensitive organic silver salt contains silver behenate in an amount of not less than 80% by mole; and

3) the binder has a glass transition temperature (Tg) of 45°C or less.

11. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 10, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt contains silver erucate in an amount of from 1.0×10^{-6}% by mole to 0.4% by mole.

12. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 10, wherein the binder is a polymer latex synthesized by using a polymerization initiator in an amount of 0.3% by weight to 2.0% by weight based on a total amount of monomers.

13. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 10, wherein a silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 5% by mole or more.

14. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 13, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 40% by mole or more.

15. (currently amended) A photothermographic material comprising, on a surface of a support, at least a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder, wherein the photothermographic material contains: a compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group,

wherein the compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group is represented by the following formula (I):

A-(W)n-B formula (I)

wherein, in the formula, A represents an atomic group containing a group capable of adsorbing to silver halide, W represents a divalent linking group, n represents 0 or 1, and B represents a reducing group,

wherein the adsorption group is a heterocyclic group substituted by one or two mercapto groups, a heterocyclic ring containing at least one atom selected from a nitrogen atom, a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a –NH- group capable to form an imino-silver (>NAg) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring, or a heterocyclic ring having quarternalized nitrogen atom,

and the reducing group is one selected from ~~hydroxylamines, hydroxamic acids,~~ hydroxyureas, ~~hydroxysemicarbazides, hydrazines, hydrazides~~ and ~~phenidones~~ 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidones;

and at least one compound represented by the following formula (H):

$Q\text{-}(Y)_n\text{-}C(Z_1)(Z_2)X$

wherein, in formula (H), Q represents an alkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; Y represents a divalent linking group; n represents 0 or 1; Z_1 and Z_2 each independently represent a halogen atom; and X represents a hydrogen atom or an electron attracting group.

16. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein the compound represented by formula (H) has a melting point of 170°C or less.

17. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein Q represents a heterocyclic group in formula (H).

18. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein the compound represented by formula (H) is contained in an amount of 1×10^{-2} mole to 5×10^{-2} mole per one mole of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

19. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 18, wherein the compound represented by formula (H) is contained in an amount of 1×10^{-2} mole to 3×10^{-2} mole per one mole of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

20. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein a silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 5% by mole or more.

21. (original) The photothermographic material according to claim 20, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 40% by mole or more.

22. (previously presented) The photothermographic material according to

claim 1, wherein the adsorption group is a heterocyclic group substituted by one or two mercapto groups.

23. (previously presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the adsorption group is a nitrogen atom containing heterocyclic group having a –NH- group capable to form an imino-silver (>NAg) as a partial structure of heterocyclic ring.

24. (previously presented) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the adsorption group is a heterocyclic ring having quarternalized nitrogen atom.

25. (cancelled)

26. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 6, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 90% by mole or more.

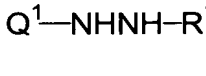
27. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 14, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 90% by mole or more.

28. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 21, wherein the silver iodide content of the photosensitive silver halide is 90% by mole or more.

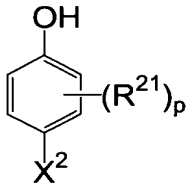
29. (new) A photothermographic material comprising an image forming layer containing at least a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder on the same surface of a support, wherein the photothermographic material contains:
a compound having an adsorption group to silver halide and a reducing group, wherein

the adsorption group is at least one selected from a group comprising a mercapto group, a thione group (-C(=S)-), a sulfide group, a disulfide group, and a cationic group containing a quarternalized nitrogen atom, and the reducing group is at least one selected from a group comprising a formyl group, an amino group, an acetylene group, a propargyl group, a hydroxylamino group, a hydroxamic acid group, a hydroxyurea group, a hydroxyurethane group, a reductone group, a 1-phenyl-3-pyrazolidone group and a anilino group;

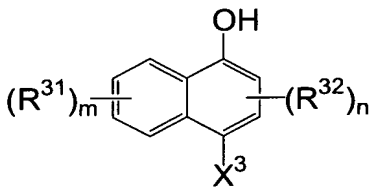
and a development accelerator which is at least one selected from compound groups represented by the following formulae (1), (2) and (3):



Formula (1)



Formula (2)



Formula (3)

wherein, in formula (1), Q^1 represents a 5 to 7 membered unsaturated ring capable of bonding to NHNH-R^1 through a carbon atom; R^1 represents a carbamoyl group, an acyl group, an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group, a sulfonyl group or a sulfamoyl group, and in formulae (2) and (3), X^2 and X^3 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; R^{21}, R^{31} and R^{32} each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent capable of substitution; m and p each independently represent an integer from 0 to 4; and n represents an integer from 0 to 2.

30. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the

photothermographic material is spectrally sensitized by a spectral sensitizer having maximum sensitivity in a wavelength from 300 nm to 500 nm.

31. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 15, wherein the photothermographic material is spectrally sensitized by a spectral sensitizer having maximum sensitivity in a wavelength from 300 nm to 500 nm.

32. (new) The photothermographic material according to claim 28, wherein the photothermographic material is spectrally sensitized by a spectral sensitizer having maximum sensitivity in a wavelength from 300 nm to 500 nm.